

make 4-H an astronomical success, including but not limited to his active involvement in the International Farm Youth Exchange program, the National Western Stock Show, an annual State 4-H golf tournament, and a 4-H lighted softball field. He made a tremendous impact on those lives he touched while partaking in the 4-H program. His devotion is reflected in the faces of those youth who had the opportunity to work with him in these projects.

In summary, Mr. President, as you can see by my remarks, Paul was a born leader. He gave to his family, community, church and region unselfishly. He was the kind of man who only comes along every so often . . . and his life deserves to be recognized.

THE VERY BAD DEBT BOXSCORE

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, at the close of business yesterday, Wednesday, March 19, 1997, the federal debt stood at \$5,367,674,335,377.56.

One year ago, March 19, 1996, the federal debt stood at \$5,058,839,000,000.

Five years ago, March 19, 1992, the federal debt stood at \$3,862,284,000,000.

Ten years ago, March 19, 1987, the federal debt stood at \$2,243,959,000,000.

Fifteen years ago, March 19, 1982, the federal debt stood at \$1,050,933,000,000 which reflects a debt increase of more than \$4 trillion (\$4,318,164,231,511.65) during the past 15 years.

TRIBUTE TO THE LATE EDWIN CRAIG WALL, JR.

Mr. THURMOND. Mr. President, in any state, there are certain individuals who make their mark in one or more fields, and in the process, they not only earn personal success, but they also make significant contributions to the place they call "home". I rise today to pay tribute to one such man, Edwin Craig Wall, Jr., who was a successful businessman and civic booster, who recently passed away after being struck by a heart attack.

During his adult life, Mr. Wall distinguished himself as a leader of business and industry in the Grand Strand area of South Carolina. This region is one of the fastest growing parts of the Palmetto State and represents a well developed and diversified economy that includes manufacturing, tourism, and shipping concerns. Tens of thousands of South Carolinians are employed in good paying, secure jobs, and the revenues that are contributed to our State's coffers from this area are certainly significant. Without question, Mr. Wall helped to create this very impressive picture of economic health that typifies the Grand Strand and Pee Dee.

Though Mr. Wall entered the businessworld with a tremendous advantage, his father had built a very successful company called Canal Industries, he chose not to rest on the accomplishments of his namesake. Trained at the business schools of Da-

vidson College and Harvard University, Mr. Wall was determined to find ways to streamline Canal and make it more efficient and profitable. From what I understand, he was more than successful in his objectives, as Canal is now a world leader in the timber industry, as well as becoming a prominent company in commercial development in the Myrtle Beach area.

Perhaps one of the hallmarks of a good business person is how much they give back to the community and state which allowed them to prosper. In the case of Mr. Wall, he was very generous in what he contributed to South Carolina and he set an excellent example for other corporate executives to follow. His expertise and insight were valued by many, and he served on countless boards, including those of Davidson College and NationsBank. He was a strong advocate of education and worked hard to ensure that the Palmetto State had a school system that would guarantee that none of our citizens lack for the skills they would require to succeed in life.

Mr. President, Craig Wall was a man who had a tremendous impact on life in South Carolina, and though he passed away at far too young an age, his star certainly shone bright. We are all grateful for the leadership and contributions he made throughout his life and career, and his wife and children have my deepest sympathies.

NATIONAL AGRICULTURE DAY

Mr. COVERDELL. Mr. President, I would guess that many in the gallery today, and even some of my colleagues, are unaware of today's significance for rural America. Today is National Agriculture Day and should be a time of great reflection and celebration for all Americans. It is unfortunate that many in today's society are unaware of agriculture's daily role in their lives, but the fault for this may lie with those of us in the agricultural sector who have not properly told our story. The significance of this day is held in the tremendous, yet quiet, success story American farmers have written in building this nation. Although our agricultural community is in a period of great transition, there still can be no dispute—American farmers produce the world safest, most abundant and affordable food and fibers. This did not come by accident. American farmers, with a few exceptions, have enjoyed a positive partnership with their government. Congress has long backed vital research, promotion and insurance activities for farmers. These efforts, for the most part, need to continue in order to maintain our excellence. Just coming out of the 1996 Farm Bill, we should now carefully evaluate our work to determine where our policies have been successful and where we need work. Let's not forget that agriculture is our nation's number one export product, and in my state, is the largest industry. My point is, just like a good

crop, our agriculture community needs attention.

Now, what is the future of agriculture? I tend to believe that our future is in trade and technology. We are strategically positioned to compete and win on a world market. We are also leading the world in our ag research with many exciting advancements on the horizon. Where we need to concentrate is on the crafting of future Agriculture leaders for America. In my state, the Georgia Farm Bureau, the Georgia Agribusiness Council and the state Department of Agriculture and University, in coordination with others involved in agriculture, have teamed up to promote a program for future ag leaders. Program participants are selected for their leadership, integrity and effectiveness and are chosen in order to better communicate with non-ag leaders the many challenges facing agriculture today. This program was adopted six years ago and is called the Georgia Agri-Leaders Forum. The Agri-Leaders of Georgia are all standouts in various fields related to agriculture. They come from farms, banks, electrical membership cooperatives, commodity groups and other organizations with a common agricultural thread. These leaders should be commended for their contributions to agriculture and their service in what should be a mission to better educate America on just what her annual harvests mean to our national security and health. They are the best and brightest in Georgia agriculture each year, and I want to recognize them on this important day. The following are the class of the 1997 Georgia Agri-Leaders Forum:

Dr. David K. Bishop, Extension Animal Scientist (University of Georgia) Tifton, GA; Roger L. Branch, Southeastern Gin Inc., Surrency, GA; Louie Canova, Floyd County Extension Director, Rome, GA; Charles Enfinger, Pineland Plantation, Newton, GA; Clint Hood, President, Allied Bank of GA, Louisville, GA; Sam James, Regional Marketing Manager, Gold Kist, Inc., Atlanta, GA; Debra M. Cervetti Engineer, Cornerstone Engineering, Moultrie, GA; James Colson, Regional Accounts Manager, Gold Kist Inc., Valdosta, GA; Frank Dean, Vice President, North GA; Farm Credit, ACA Daniel L. Johnson, D.L. Johnson Farms, Alma, GA; Robert F. Jones, The Kroger Company, Atlanta, GA; George Larsen II, Lone Oak Plantation, DeSoto, GA; April Lavender, Georgia Forestry Association, Norcross, GA; Mary Ellen Lawson, GA; Department of Agriculture, Atlanta, GA; Dr. Daniel V. McCracken, Dept. Of Crop and Soil Science (University of GA.), Griffin, GA; Clete Sanders, S&S Farms, Forsyth, GA; Shirley Stripling, Chula Peanuts and Grain, Chula, GA; Stephen L. Morgan, ISK Bioscience, Thomasville, GA; James R. Noble, GA; Power Company, Tifton, GA; Richard L. Oliver, Area Conservationist (USDA/NRCS), Rome, GA; Lynn D. Thornhill, Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College, Tifton, GA; Frank Wade, Jr., A.F. Wade CPA, Cochran, GA;

Mr. President, I want to again recognize and congratulate this fine class of agri-leaders for their contributions to agriculture and to their country on this National Agriculture Day.